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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Venezuela

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension:
1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001

I. Background and justification

1. The Government of Venezuela and the UNDP country office request the extension of the country cooperation framework (CCF) for two years in order to: (a) respond to the harmonization of the programming periods; (b) elaborate the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); and (c) give the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) the opportunity to negotiate the reduction of its programming period.

2. The Executive Board approved the CCF for Venezuela in September 1997 and its relevance still remains.

3. In December 1998, there were presidential elections in Venezuela. Therefore, the future CCF/UNDAF exercise will be carried out in accordance with: (a) the new Constitution that was approved at the end of 1999; and (b) the new development plan that is being developed.

4. The revision and evaluation of the CCF will be carried out during the period of the extension.

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II. Objectives

A. Summary of the objectives and results achieved

5. the objectives of the CCF for Venezuela are concentrated in three thematic areas: (a) the promotion of sustainable human development (SHD); (b) the strengthening of national capacity for the execution of programming and projects related to SHD; and (c) democratic governance and state reform.

Promotion of sustainable human development

6. UNDP participation has been focused on:

(a) The design and implementation of mechanisms for the institutionalization of a platform for the promotion of the SHD concept with concrete repercussions on sectoral issues. This strategy has produced significant results, considering that the elements which conform to the SHD concept are widely known and used by different governmental, political and academic sectors and civil society.

(b) The collection of reliable indicators and databases to analyse the basic needs of the population and the existing socio-economic disparities. A national human development report (NHDR) has been published annually since 1995. UNDP has also supported a project for the production of socio-economic indicators at municipal and state levels. This project includes the implementation of an information system utilized to follow up the behaviour of the socio-economic indicators. The information obtained contains datasets in three areas: population, health and education. Today, the project has completed the data collection for 7 states. The initiative will ultimately cover all regions in Venezuela. The Government has used the results of these projects and the data collected to assist in the formulation of key policy issues, including earmarking of public budgets to local governments and the identification of needs of the most vulnerable.

(c) The drafting of poverty reduction strategies and social policies aimed at reducing poverty and strengthening the participation of civil society in the different levels of decision-making: local, state and national. UNDP has supported the elaboration of proposals for social change and civil-society participation. These include institutional changes, decentralization of the social sector, and coordination mechanisms between civil society and the Government, among others. UNDP and the World Bank published the book, *Alianza para la reducción de la pobreza. Experiencias exitosas en Venezuela.* UNDP has successfully promoted the introduction of a sustainable human development strategy (SHDS) at the local level targeting social changes through consensus building among different interest groups in the community. The strategy was carried out through the organization of various events that were attended by approximately 2,000 representatives from, among others, national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, grass-roots organizations and universities. This initiative led to the formulation of a project to improve the physical infrastructure of low-income housing. The activities planned under this project include organizing people's participation in the processes of planning and decision-making for a beneficiary group comprising approximately 20,014 families. UNDP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are also working on a rural development plan. All the

initiatives under the SHDS were made possible with the support of the private sector, national and international community, and the United Nations system.

Strengthening national capacity for the execution of programmes and projects related to SHD

7. UNDP has supported several governmental initiatives in the area of institutional reform focusing on the training of human capital. UNDP has contributed to institutional reform and capacity-building in education, health, basic services, environment and social security. It has collaborated with the oil industry and received financing from the private sector to provide capacity-building for institutions working in the areas of health and education. UNDP has also provided direct training on project management and implementation to staff running UNDP-funded projects. A total of 60 government officials attended two seminars.

Democratic governance and state reform

8. The CCF establishes the intervention of UNDP in two major areas. The first is the adoption of mechanisms and the evaluation of experiences that have contributed to strengthening democratic values and institutions. UNDP developed a number of projects focusing on the modernization of the judicial sector and the training of different social actors on human rights issues. The projects have issued several groundbreaking publications in areas like justice, governance and criminality. UNDP provided assistance to the constitutional reform process to ensure the participation of civil society and access of experiences of other countries. The second major area is decentralization. The publication of NHDRs, including disaggregated data at state and municipal levels, has influenced the process of policy formulation and decision-making, making it more responsive to local needs. The 1998 NHDR focused on decentralization issues. UNDP supported the publication of studies on decentralization and its successful experiences in Venezuela. Several UNDP projects have supported institutional reforms of state governments, including revamping organizational structures and introducing state-of-the-art managerial, information, financial and accounting systems. The Consejo de la Judicatura, the Social Investment Fund, the Zulia Government, the Treasury Ministry, and other government agencies have undergone internal restructuring and re-engineering as part of the above-mentioned efforts.

III. Recommendation

9. The Administrator recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the first CCF for Venezuela for a period of two years from 1 January 2000 through 31 December 2001.

Annex

Resource mobilization target table for Venezuela (2000-2001)

Source	Amount (In thousands of United States dollars)	Comment
UNDP regular resources		
Estimated carry-over into 2000	5[a]	Includes AOS
TRAC 1.1.1	251	Assigned immediately to country.
TRAC 1.1.2	0 to 66.7 per cent of TRAC 1.1.1	This range of percentages is presented for initial planning purposes only. The actual assignment will depend on the availability of high-quality programmes. Any increase in the range of percentages would also be subject to availability of resources.
SPPD/STS	68	
Subtotal	**324[a]**	
UNDP other resources		
Government cost-sharing	127 000	
Sustainable development funds	1 710	
	of which:	
GEF	1 600	
Montreal Protocol	110	
Third party cost-sharing	-	
Funds, trust funds and other	-	
Subtotal	**128 710**	
Grand total	**129 034[a]**	

[a] Not inclusive of TRAC 1.1.2, which is allocated regionally for subsequent country application.

Abbreviations: AOS = Administrative Operational Services; GEF = Global Environment Facility; SPPD = support for policy and programme development; STS = support for technical services; TRAC = target for resource assignment from the core.